

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented). Multilayer film optionally comprising a heat-sealable coating having an outer polyamide layer containing nanoscale particulate nucleating agents and at least one further polyamide layer, wherein the polyamide forming the outer layer is made of at least 90% polyamide 6 and the smallest constituents of the particles dispersed in the outer layer forming a rigid unit in the dispersion having as a number-weighted average of all the constituents a dimension of not more than 100 nm in at least one direction that can be arbitrarily chosen for each constituent and wherein crystalline structures originate from the surface of the particles dispersed therein and all the further polyamide layers contain the particles contained in the outer layer at a level of not more than one tenth of the proportion by weight of the particles in the outer layer, and the thickness of the outer layer is less than 50% of the total thickness of all the layers containing polyamide.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein the proportion by weight of the particles dispersed in the outer layer, relative to the total weight of the composition forming the outer layer, is between 0.1 and 3 wt. %.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein in addition to polyamide 6, the outer layer contains a polyamide selected from the group consisting of polyamide 10, polyamide 12, polyamide 66, polyamide 610, polyamide 6I, polyamide 612, polyamide 6/66, polyamide 6I/6T, polyamide MXD6, polyamide 6/6I,

polyamide 6/6T, polyamide 6/IPDI, copolymers of monomers forming said polymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The multilayer film of Claim 1, wherein the particles dispersed in the outer layer comprise particles that have an aspect ratio of at least 10 in two randomly selectable directions.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 4 wherein the particles dispersed in the outer layer are sheet silicates.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein said multilayer film contains one or more EVOH-containing layers.

Claim 7 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein said multilayer film has an at least monolayer heat-sealable coating on that side of the multilayer film remote from the outer polyamide layer.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein said multilayer film contains one or more coupling layers.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The multilayer film of Claim 1 wherein in addition to the outer layer and one or more further layers composed of polyamide and, optionally, which outer layer and further layers optionally comprise conventional

additives ~~and also, optionally, said multilayer film optionally further comprises~~ one or more EVOH-containing layers, one or more heat-sealable coatings, ~~and also one or more coupling layers, or any combination thereof, and~~ said multilayer film additionally contains one or more further polymeric layers or a layer of a metal oxide or nonmetal oxide between two inner layers.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1, wherein at least one outer layer, optionally also a plurality of or all the layers are subjected after extrusion to a stretching operation selected from: stretching only in the longitudinal direction; stretching only in the transverse direction; stretching first in the longitudinal direction and then in the transverse direction; stretching simultaneously in the longitudinal direction and transverse direction; and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The multilayer film of Claim 1, wherein said multilayer film is produced as a blown film by coextrusion.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method of using the multilayer film of Claim 1 ~~for comprising~~ packaging foodstuffs with the multilayer film.